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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
**INFORMATION REPORT**

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COUNTRY Germany (Soviet Zone)

SUBJECT Anton Ackermann; Fred Ölsner

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1. Anton Ackermann's real name is Eugen Hänisch. In 1923 he became a functionary of the Communist Youth and the military apparatus of the Communist Party. In 1929 or 1930 he went to Moscow to the International Lenin School and was graduated from the nine-month course, then took a further three-year course. Known at the party school by the name of "Peter," he was attached to the German section of the Comintern, under Fritz Heckert, later Wilhelm Pieck. Radek set him down as "not unintelligent, no real revolutionary, but a party official." Ackermann is intelligent and has the ability to be critical, but he sets all criticism aside as soon as he is persuaded that his own interests are involved. At present his position is uncomfortable, since he failed to follow the SED party line promptly enough. It is probable that he also took part in the Ulbricht-Zaisser struggle for power on the side of the latter, and supported Zaisser's political theses. It is, however, not to be taken that Ackermann, who is a sick man, will place himself in a position of opposition.
2. The press release according to which Fred Ölsner was arrested because of his connection with the Zaisser-Herrnstadt group and "examined for fourteen hours by the head of the SSD, State Secretary Wollweber" is not quite accurate. Ölsner was editor of the Communist paper in Stuttgart in 1923. He took no part in the struggle of those years, although his father did. During this period Ölsner was chiefly interested in buying dollars and making money out of the inflation. In the middle 1920s Ölsner went to Moscow to the school of the Red Professor. He became a strong follower of Bukharin. It is likely that Ölsner wrongly evaluated the distribution of power in the Kremlin after Stalin's death, and as a result wrongly evaluated the position in the SED and thus came to support Zaisser-Herrnstadt. Even so he suddenly and recklessly went over to the Ulbricht line. He wrote various articles for Ulbricht, which appeared over the latter's name, and his relations with Ulbricht were very good. He is a typical intellectual, with a good understanding and some writing ability, but he has no brains.

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